

December 18, 2013

Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.

Appointments to Committee on Model Civil Jury Instructions announced by Michigan Supreme Court

[Press release](#)

Oakland County Legal News: Courts closed

"The Oakland County Circuit and Probate Courts will be closed on Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 24-25, for the Christmas holiday.... The Michigan Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals, and the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) will be closed on Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 24-25, for the Christmas holiday."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Supreme Court, Court of Appeals announce holiday schedule

[Press release](#)

Grand Rapids Legal News: Michigan Supreme Court names panel to ensure court interpreters are qualified

"Looking to make sure people with limited ability to speak English have consistent, meaningful access to Michigan courts, the state Supreme Court today named nine members to the new Foreign Language Board of Review."

[Full story](#)

Kalamazoo Gazette: Is there a link between The Kalamazoo Promise and the decline in juvenile delinquency?

"... [W]hile egregious teen behavior has not gone away by any means, juvenile delinquency is down significantly in Kalamazoo County based on a variety of measures.... A big reason for the drop: Police and court officials are seeking more therapeutic alternatives to deal with juvenile delinquents, instead of locking them up."

[Full story](#)

The MLW Blog: Chupa appointed to 37th District Court

"Warren attorney Michael Chupa has been appointed as judge to the 37 District Court, which serves Warren and Centerline.... Chupa replaces Judge Jennifer Faunce, who was appointed to Macomb County circuit court, and will have to run for election in November 2014 for a full six-year term."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

SBM Blog: Governor Names Michael Chupa To 37th District Court

[Full story](#)

Muskegon Chronicle: Baby Kate case: Sean Phillips' 2012 conviction, tough sentence upheld on appeal

"The Michigan Court of Appeals has upheld the conviction and unusually tough sentencing of Sean Michael Phillips for the unlawful imprisonment of his infant daughter, Katherine 'Baby Kate' Phillips. In an opinion dated Dec. 17, a three-judge appeals panel unanimously affirmed Phillips' 2012 conviction of that felony and his sentencing to between 10 and 15 years in prison."

[Full story](#)

Muskegon Chronicle: Mental illness and criminal justice: Muskegon's mental health court changes lives

"Diane VerHage's excitement was palpable; the change in her, remarkable. The same was true of Mablen Jones, a bundle of enthusiasm that autumn afternoon. Both women recently 'graduated' from Muskegon County's mental health court. The court is a collaboration of 60th District Court, Community Mental Health Services of Muskegon County and the court's probation office, with cooperation from defense and prosecuting attorneys."

[Full story](#)

Muskegon Chronicle: Muskegon County District Court opts out of new public defender system for misdemeanors

"A big part of Muskegon County's court system has opted out of the county's new in-house public defender system, with 60th District Court's four judges refusing to operate under the new system when it comes to misdemeanor cases. The district judges believe their existing system of contracting with private attorneys provides better defense for indigent clients than would the county's new system."

[Full story](#)

Muskegon Chronicle: Muskegon attorney Shawn P. Davis' law license suspended

"Prominent Muskegon trial attorney Shawn P. Davis' law license has been suspended for two years. The suspension takes effect Jan. 3. Until that date, Davis may continue working on cases he already has. But he's barred from accepting new clients effective immediately."

[Full story](#)

Saginaw News: Saginaw County begins intensive program for 'high-risk' probationers to reduce recidivism

"Saginaw County has begun an intensive program designed to reduce recidivism among the county's most common probation violators. Armed with a grant from the State Court Administrator's Office, the county on Nov. 12 began its Swift & Sure Sanctions Probation Program, which places 'high-risk' probationers' under intense supervision."

[Full story](#)

SBM Blog: Can Judges Have Opinions?

"The cliché is 'sober as a judge' not 'silent as a judge,' but the phenomenon of sitting judges expressing strong public views on subjects that may be related to cases that could come before them is (notwithstanding the existence of Judge Richard Posner) relatively rare. On the heels of a controversial rebuke of Judge Shira Scheindlin for her comments concerning 'stop and frisk,' legal ethics guru Stephen Gillers, writing at Legal Ethics Forum, suggests the game is on."

[Full story](#)

SBM Blog: Does The First Amendment Apply To Public Protests Outside Court Buildings?

"Is it permissible to exercise your free speech rights on issues before a court by picketing or demonstrating in front of the courthouse? If your first blush answer is 'of course' then you'll want to read the Department of Justice's brief in the D.C. Circuit, appealing a district court decision overturning a ban on public demonstrations outside the U.S. Supreme Court."

[Full story](#)

WJBK-TV(2)/Detroit: Detroit Magistrate fired after 'intemperate' remark in court

"Magistrate Stephen Lockhart has been a magistrate at 36th District Court for more than 13 years and, now, his career is over allegedly because of what he said in court this past Friday. Sources tell Fox 2 a woman appeared in his courtroom Friday who owed nearly four thousand dollars in fines. Lockhart ordered she be held in Wayne County Jail on a two thousand dollar bond."

[Full story](#)